

# The Middletown Transcript.

EDWARD REYNOLDS, Editor.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1876.

## CHRISTMAS.

Christmas, the happiest time of all the year, is again at hand. Throughout all the world, wherever the gospel of Christ has been disseminated and his religion established, there Christmas, the day set apart by His church as the anniversary of the birth of Man's Redeemer, is acknowledged and celebrated. In all the world, too, its observation is of the same nature and character. It is everywhere regarded as a time of joy and gladness, and of rest from the cares and labors of everyday life. All business is suspended: the merchant closes his store, the manufacturer his shop, the lawyer his office; the politician, for the time, ceases his plottings; Senates and parliaments adjourn; schools are closed and the children, freed from all restraint, are left to enjoy the day according to their own inclinations. High and low, rich and poor, old and young—all people of both sexes and all colors and languages—join in the celebration of this one grand, universal holiday. Christmas is the time for family reunions, when the members of the household perhaps separate all the rest of the year meet under the old homestead roof. It is a time for giving and receiving presents and tokens of regard and esteem. It is a time of peace, and men who have been enemies, maybe for years, meeting on that day, are made friends to each other. It is a time of charity, and even the closest and most miserly of men will open his purse and bestow something toward the alleviation of the sufferings of his less fortunate brother. For the time the spirit of Evil seems to be banished and the democratic legislature.

**Louisiana.**—In Louisiana the same muddled condition of things exists, and on the assembling of the Legislature on the first of January, the same spectacle will doubtless be witnessed as is now seen in South Carolina. There will be two legislative bodies each claiming to be the proper and legal Legislature. There will be two Governors—or two men claiming to be Governor—two Lieutenant Governors, and in fact two complete administrations, each claiming to be the right one. As an evidence of what may be expected, we quote from a speech made, in answer to a question on Tuesday night last, by Gen. Nichols, the democratic candidate for Governor. He said he "was fairly and legally elected Governor of Louisiana by over 8000 votes of both races; that it was his fixed determination to assert and maintain his right to that position; that he would be prepared to do his whole duty, and that he should expect the same from every citizen of Louisiana."

## PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.

**SENATE.**—An attempt was made to pass the bill for the reduction of the President's salary from \$50,000 to \$25,000—it original status—which was voted by President Grant at the last session, over the President's veto, but it failed for the want of the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative. Senator Bayard, of Delaware, voted against the reduction. Senator Saulsbury, either to the select committee on that subject. A resolution for inquiry into the conduct of Judge Bond in South Carolina was offered, but it failed for the want of two-thirds in its favor.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.

**SENATE.**—The Pension bill as passed by the Senate was reported and placed on the calendar. The formal presentation of the statues of Samuel Adams and John Winthrop, contributed by Massachusetts to the National Statuary Hall, was made. The Oregon resolution was discussed, pending which the Senate adjourned.

**House.**—Mr. Wood, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a resolution for the adjournment of the House from next Saturday to Wednesday, the 27th inst., and from Saturday, the 30th inst., to Wednesday, the 3d of January. After some discussion the resolution was agreed to by a vote of 121 to 92. The Diplomatic Appropriation bill was reported and made the special order for Wednesday. The Fortification bill was passed. After the formal presentation of the Adams and Winthrop statues to the Hall of Statuary in the Capitol the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.

**SENATE.**—A bill was passed changing the name of the Territory of Pembinia to Haron. The pension bill was slightly amended and passed. The resolution authorizing an investigation as to the appointment of Mr. Croton, one of the Oregon electors, was again discussed at length. During the debate, Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, said he was satisfied when he said that that gentleman should be convinced that the returning boards of Louisiana and Florida had acted wrong he would make no claim to the office of President of the United States. Mr. Sherman at the same time claimed that Gov. Hayes was clearly entitled to the election of the two States.

Meanwhile committees, composed of men of each party, appointed by both Houses of Congress, having been sent to those States to ascertain the true condition of affairs, are hard at work doing all in their power to get at the truth and find out how and for whom the vote of those States was cast. To the credit of the democrats and their cause, they offer every facility to those committees in the prosecution of their labors, courting, rather than shunning, a thorough investigation of their acts, while the republicans, as if afraid of the result of a scrutiny of their conduct, throw every obstacle in the way of the committees that they possibly can. The authority of the committees is disputed; their orders disobeyed, their requests ignored; the delivery of letters and telegrams is refused, witnesses are spirited away, and, especially in Louisiana, every means taken to restrict and hamper them. Despite all these difficulties and hindrances, the committees are steadily pushing their investigations and the country looks anxiously on awaiting their verdict as a settlement of the trouble that now hangs over the country. It will probably take weeks, and possibly a month, before the end is reached and their examinations completed, but whatever may be their decision it is urgently and sincerely hoped that it will be acquiesced in, that our national troubles may grow no greater.

**House.**—The subject of requiring the production of telegrams before committees of the House was called up, and Mr. Knott offered a resolution, which was adopted after a long debate, declaring that a telegram is no more privileged than any communication oral or otherwise, and that a committee has a

right to demand their production, and that a witness refusing to comply with a subpoena shall be brought to the bar of the House, to be subject to such action as the House may determine. Persons tampering with a witness are also to be brought to the bar of the House for its action. During the debate Mr. Hewitt, of New York, chairman of the democratic national committee, said he had reason to think that the protection which the law secures to citizens as to communications through the postoffice was more of a delusion than was generally supposed, and further said that during the last month his attention had been called to his own letters passing through the New York postoffice, and, according to his best judgment and that of experts, they were frequently, if not generally opened in the postoffice and resealed by mail, the steam used being apparent on the envelope.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST.

**SENATE.**—A resolution was adopted providing for an adjournment from Friday until Tuesday. The conference report on the disagreeing votes of the two houses in relation to the expense of committee of investigation was called up and passed; it appropriates \$25,000 for each house, with the understanding that both bodies could ask for more money if thought necessary. The Chair announced the special committee of the Senate to act with a special committee of the House to prepare a measure to accomplish the lawful counting of the electoral vote, Messrs. Edmunds, Morton, Frelinghuysen, and Logan, republicans, and Messrs. Thurman, Bayard, and Ransom, democrats. The death of Senator Caperton, of West Virginia, was announced, and a number of eulogies delivered.

**House.**—A resolution was adopted authorizing the House investigating committee now in New York to investigate whether any letters passing through the New York postoffice have been tampered with, and if so by whom, and to report as early as possible. Before the passage of the resolution Mr. Hewitt, of New York, made a statement of facts in regard to what he believed to have been a tampering with his mail. A resolution was adopted for the arrest of E. S. Barnes, telegraph manager at New Orleans, for contempt in refusing to produce certain papers before the Louisiana investigating committee. The death of Senator Caperton, of W. Va., was then announced, and much in the work of conciliation.

**Louisiana.**—In Louisiana the same muddled condition of things exists, and on the assembling of the Legislature on the first of January, the same spectacle will doubtless be witnessed as is now seen in South Carolina. There will be two legislative bodies each claiming to be the proper and legal Legislature. There will be two Governors—or two men claiming to be Governor—two Lieutenant Governors, and in fact two complete administrations, each claiming to be the right one. As an evidence of what may be expected, we quote from a speech made, in answer to a question on Tuesday night last, by Gen. Nichols, the democratic candidate for Governor. He said he "was fairly and legally elected Governor of Louisiana by over 8000 votes of both races; that it was his fixed determination to assert and maintain his right to that position; that he would be prepared to do his whole duty, and that he should expect the same from every citizen of Louisiana."

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**House.**—Mr. Proctor Knott, of Ky., introduced a bill for the regulation of the proceedings in the electoral count for President and Vice President. Referred to the select committee on that subject.

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